

Proposals are due **13 May 2016** to MES-Proposals@cofc.edu

Master of Science in Environmental Studies: Student/Faculty Research Development

Call for Research Proposals: Fall 2016/Spring 2017 or Spring 2017/Summer 2017

Overview: The Master of Science in Environmental Studies (MES) program hopes to support two (2) research projects of a **student/faculty team** which the student will be awarded a Graduate Assistantship and the Faculty advisor will receive funds to support the research topic (travel, supplies; and/or summer salary support for roster faculty on 9-month appointments). The objective of this research program is to provide funding to students of good academic standing currently enrolled (or matriculating in the next applicable semester) in the MES program and supporting high quality student projects across the spectrum of MES areas. Applicants shall submit a proposal to perform environmental studies research along the lines of a thesis or internship project for the MES degree requirements. The student applicant shall have a faculty sponsor(s), in the form of a thesis advisor, or an internship sponsor and academic advisor who will supervise the work. Proposals will be evaluated by an independent panel and merit will be determined by evaluation of the entire package including **(1) scientific merit and creativity, (2) feasibility of objectives, (3) clarity of methods, (4) likelihood for success, and (5) relevancy to environmental studies.** One motivation of this research program is to provide support to students for their thesis or internship project. The thesis/internship proposal may serve as the impetus for the research proposal for the MES program; however, the funding support is for two semesters total (Fall 2016/Spring 2017 or Spring/Summer 2017) and therefore the objectives must be gauged to fit the requested time duration of support. Also, the student cannot simultaneously hold another assistantship (GA, TA) during the duration of this Graduate Assistantship. Questions or inquiries email MES-proposals@cofc.edu, Tim Callahan (MES Director) callahant@cofc.edu or Courtney Murren (Dept of Biology and MES faculty member) murrenc@cofc.edu.

Eligibility

Student: have completed no more than three (3) semesters of study by the start of Fall semester 2016.

Faculty: must be an active member of the MES faculty, roster or adjunct/affiliate status and serving as the student's research advisor. (Contact the MES office for questions.)

Proposal Requirements: The student/faculty pair should submit a proposal containing all material listed below in **one PDF file** to MES-proposals@cofc.edu by **13 May 2016**. The format of the proposal should be single-spaced, 12-point font with 1" page margins. Application structure:

- Cover Page, to include –

Student Name and Faculty Advisor Name

Project Title. Clearly identifies the project. Maximum 20 words.

Abstract. A synopsis of the project relevance, methodology, and expected results. Maximum 150 words.

- Statement of Interest. The **student** shall provide context on how the proposed research will advance their personal objectives in the MES program and in their potential career following graduation. *Maximum* two (2) pages.

**Student must indicate for which period they desire Graduate Assistantship funding
(Fall 2016/Spring 2017 or Spring /Summer 2017)**

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- **Project Description.** Relevant literature review, objectives (and hypotheses, as applicable), description of proposed methods, project timeline, expected results and benefits, and literature cited. Maximum six (6) pages (including figures and tables).

Literature citations shall follow an accepted format in the environmental studies field.

- **Faculty letter and budget description.** The faculty member supervising the work shall also include a letter of support briefly describing the project and the broader impacts of the work, as well as a budget and budget description including justification for any requested faculty funding support. The entire packet will go out to a set of reviewer, and all applicants will receive anonymous reviewers' comments.

Successful student applicants will receive salary support (\$13,000 for two consecutive semesters) in the form of an Assistantship through the MES Program and Graduate School at the College of Charleston. The successful applicant may also be eligible for a scholarship to cover the difference between out-of-state and in-state tuition costs, contingent on funding availability.

The faculty member will receive up to \$700 to support the project (either as summer salary for roster faculty on 9-month appointments, and/or travel support or supplies for the research program for roster faculty); supplies and or travel support for affiliate (non-roster) faculty.

Important Dates

Proposals Due	13 May 2016 (only submissions by this date will be considered)		
Notification of Award	by 15 June 2016		
Effective Dates	<u>Fall 2016 – Spring 2017</u>	<i>or</i>	<u>Spring 2017 – Summer 2017</u>
Progress Report Due	16 December 2016	<i>or</i>	12 May 2017
Final Report Due	9 June 2017	<i>or</i>	8 September 2017

Reporting requirements:

Progress report (midpoint of project): Provide information on methods development (or changes since proposal), initial results, relevant project meetings, and any related publications or presentations regarding the project. Maximum two (2) pages. Submit in PDF format to MES-Proposals@cofc.edu by the due date listed above.

Final Report: Provide a summary statement for the project (500 words maximum), describe any changes in the proposed activities, and provide a narrative that lists the details on the project, the results (with figures and tables as appropriate), implications of the work, and list of cited literature. Six (6) pages maximum. Submit in PDF format to MES-Proposals@cofc.edu by the appropriate due date listed above.